

II. Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants filed PTO Form 1449 on April 22, 2002. On this form, in the category of "Other Documents," Applicants disclosed co-pending U.S. applications. On the copy of the Form 1449 returned to Applicants with the instant Office Action, the Examiner drew lines through the co-pending application citations. However, Form 1449 instructs the Examiner to cross out citations only if the citations were not in conformance and not considered.

Applicants wish to point out that citations to co-pending applications are allowed and that Applicants followed the requirements of listing the co-pending applications. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609. Clarification and indication that these co-pending applications were considered is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this matter, she is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 408-4307.

III. Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-45, 47-67, 69-113, and 118-161 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over claims 1-183 of co-pending Application No. 09/685,577.

Although Applicants disagree with all of these rejections, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to render the rejection moot and put this application in condition for allowance.

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Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection and the timely allowance of pending claims 1-45, 47-67, 69-113, and 118-161.

IV. Conclusion

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper and the accompanying Terminal Disclaimer and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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